# DOWNFALL

ASANO INIO

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THE NEW SERIES. DEEP INSIDE HIM, SOMETHING IS MISSING...

WAVES OF DESPAIR PLAYED LIKE A SYMPHONY... CHAPTER 3 OF

CHAPTER 3



I'M TSUKADA, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF FOR *MANGA PICKS 21.*

MY NAME IS COOOLTARO AND I'M A WRITER.

SPECIAL ILLUSTRATIONS & MORE! OUR MAGICAL HISTORIA, SHOU HAPPY!
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW & ILLUSTRATED MESSAGES FOR/WITH THE WOMAN YOU LOVE OF MANGA, KAORI NAKAJIMA!

THIS YEAR'S TOP 100!!

MANGA PICKS 21

BY HARDCORE FANS AMONG FANS, THE TRUE AFICIONADO'S GUIDE TO MANGA

INCLUDES THE RESULTS OF THE 18TH MANGA PICKS 21! GRAND PRIZE!!

# DOWNFALL

CREATED BY INIO ASANO ◆ AND PRESENTED BY mangastream.com

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PLEASE DON'T SUPPORT WEBSITES THAT DO.
CONSIDER BUYING THE OFFICIAL VOLUMES WHEN THEY ARE AVAILABLE IN YOUR REGION.

I SEE...

30TH, HUH...

YOUR WORK FELT LIKE A KNIFE PIERCING RIGHT THROUGH THE HEART. IT REMINDED ME JUST HOW MUCH POTENTIAL MANGA HAS AS AN ART FORM.

THE FINAL VOLUME MADE IT ONTO OUR WEBSITE'S TOPLIST THIS MONTH, RANKING AT 30TH. YOUR THOUGHTS?

CONGRATULATIONS FOR MORE THAN A DECADE OF SUCCESS WITH *SAYONARA SUNSET*, FUKASAWA-SENSEI.

BUT THAT'S JUST THE CULT ADORATION OF A SELECT FEW...

IT WASN'T REALLY REFLECTED IN THE SALES NUMBERS.

IT WAS A TRENDING TOPIC... MANY SAID THEY COULDN'T STOP CRYING, THAT IT WAS HEART-WRENCHING, AND SO ON.

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...PASSION? FOR MANGA?

NO AUTHOR TODAY IS SPARED FROM TOXIC CRITICISM, AND YET YOU'VE ALWAYS FOUND THE STRENGTH TO GO ON. WHAT'S THE SOURCE OF THAT OVERWHELMING PASSION FOR MANGA?

SINCE THE BEGINNING, YOUR STYLISH ARTWORK HAS CAPTURED PERFECTLY THE ANXIETIES AND CONFLICTS OF TODAY'S YOUTH. IS THAT WHY YOUR FANS ARE SO DEVOTED?

I MAY BE A PROFESSIONAL MANGA CREATOR, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'M PASSIONATE ABOUT IT.

DON'T PUT WORDS IN MY MOUTH, PLEASE.

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THOSE PEOPLE BACK THERE ...THEY WERE PLAYING ME FOR A FOOL, RIGHT?

NO NO, ON THE CONTRARY. THAT'S EXACTLY WHY YOU'RE ALWAYS WORTHY TALKING TO.

SORRY, I'M AFRAID I'M NO GOOD AT INTERVIEWS...

NAH, IT'S FINE.

HACK JOBS ARE GOOD ENOUGH FOR SOMEONE WHO ENDED UP AS 30TH.

WELL DAMN... I THINK YOU MIGHT BE SPOT ON...

I'LL TELL THEM NOT TO SEND HACK JOBS LIKE THAT.

THAT WRITER GUY, TOO...

JUDGING FROM HIS QUESTIONS, HE'S JUST SKIMMED SOME ONLINE REVIEWS AT BEST...

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AH- I'M SO SORRY!!

I'M ALREADY SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH ANOTHER AUTHOR...

SAY, TOKUMARU, IF YOU'RE FREE... WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO GET SOME COFFEE AND TALK ABOUT MY NEXT WORK?

OH...

I SEE.

THESE DAYS I'M ALREADY WAY TOO BUSY WITH MY ASSIGNED SERIES...

I'M REALLY SORRY TO ASK THIS, BUT...

IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU, I'D LIKE OUR FUTURE MEETINGS TO BE AT A MORE CONVENIENT PLACE FOR ME. BACK AT THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT, THAT IS. WHEN I GET SOME FREE TIME, THAT IS...

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SMOKING AREA

ごみはお持ち帰り下さい

HUFF...

HUFF...

AH...

AH...

I'M CUMMING, I'M CUMMING ...

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...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

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TO PRACTICE ENGLISH?

MHM.

私何も思い出せないの

HIDING THE SUBTITLES.

CAN YOU REALLY GET WHAT'S GOING ON LIKE THAT?



THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE STUDYING ENGLISH LIT...

FOR ME, THAT ALONE IS PRETTY IMPRES-SIVE. I CAN'T UNDERSTAND A SINGLE WORD...

BUT WHEN I DO, I FIND THAT MOST OF THE TIME THEY'RE JUST SAYING TRIVIAL THINGS.

IF THERE'S A SCENE THAT LOOKS IMPORTANT, I'LL PEEK.

危ないから やめなさい

INCLUDING ME. OVER THE HOLIDAY, I'M GOING WITH SOME FRIENDS TO ITALY.

REALLY?

THEN I GUESS EVERYONE IN THE DEPARTMENT MUST BE A GENIUS.

OH...

NO ONE ACTUALLY EVEN STUDIES, THEY JUST HANG AROUND AND HAVE FUN.

AND YOU?

ARE YOU GETTING SOME DAYS OFF THIS GOLDEN WEEK?

OR WOULD YOU PREFER TO NOT TALK ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I'M, UH...

AN ASTRO-NAUT.

NO, IT'S OK.

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HA-HA.

COME ON, YOU CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING FUNNIER.

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YAAAAY!!

THEY CALL ME THE UNSINKABLE BATTLESHIP OF MCD36! AND NOW I'M ALSO YOUR LOVELY BEEF BOWL AMBASSADOR!

MOH-MOH-MOH-MOH♪ MOH-MOH-MOH-MOH♪ MORE! MORE! GIMME MO-RE, MORE MORIIII!♪

THE NAME'S MIIWAAAA MORIGUUCHIIII! HWEET HWEET!

COME ON, EVERYBODY! CHIN UP! YOU CAN DO IT!!

MORE, MORE, MUNCHY, MUNCHY, MORIGU— CHI!!

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AH...

THANKS FOR PICKING UP. IT'S FUKA-SAWA.

Go viral on social media
cater to insecurity
game ending
~~otaku bait~~

reader level
↑
easy read

MOE

Mohr moh- Moon!

schoolgirl
pigtail
idol?
frag

Exp s

Gohan + immortal zombie?



ARE YOU REALLY OK WITH PLAYING ALONG WITH THIS SYSTEM? THERE'S LESS CREATIVE FREE-DOM FOR AUTHORS WITH EVERY PASSING DAY...

DING-DONG

TOKUMARU, IF WE TRY TO CATER TO EVERY INTERNET TROLL'S WHIMS, THAT'LL BE THE RUIN OF THE ENTIRE INDUSTRY...

I'VE BEEN THINKING A LOT ABOUT HOW TO WRITE A BEST-SELLER, AND...

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TOMITA...

OH...

COME IN, I GUESS...

CAME TO GET SOME-THING?

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I SEE.

WELL, ACTUALLY, I REGRET FIRING YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN LIKE THAT...

SORRY, BUT...

...BUT YOU'VE ALREADY ACCEPTED THE SUPPLEMENTARY PAY, SO I DON'T FEEL LIKE...

I JUST CAN'T... THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE...

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY...

YOU THINK THIS IS ALL ABOUT MONEY!!

IF THAT'S THE PROBLEM, I'LL GIVE THE MONEY BACK.

HAD TO PUT UP WITH A FOG OF CIGARETTE SMOKE EVERY DAY...

I HAD TO PUT UP WITH IT FOR FIVE YEARS.

HAD TO PUT UP WITH YOU PEEING WITH THE TOILET DOOR OPEN ...

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I CAN'T ACCEPT... THAT CONDESCENDING, NAVEL-GAZING ATTITUDE...

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THINK ABOUT MY STANDING IN THE JOB I HAD. DO YOU HONESTLY THINK I COULD HAVE SAID ANYTHING?

IF THOSE THINGS BOTHERED YOU SO MUCH, YOU COULD HAVE TOLD ME RIGHT AWAY...

WELL, I GUESS THAT'S TRUE ENOUGH, BUT...

WHAT'S THE POINT IN TELLING ME NOW? WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

FUKASAWA. ADMIT TO YOUR INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR.

NOW WAIT A MOMENT, TOMITA...

I WANT YOU TO OWN UP TO YOUR INAPPROPRIATE PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR.



THE HELL I WILL.

OKAY...

SO THIS IS HOW IT'S GONNA BE...

HAD ENOUGH YET?

I'M BUSY HERE. DO ME A FAVOR AND LEAVE ME ALONE, WON'T YOU?

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ONE OF MY FRIENDS IS A GOOD LAWYER.

YOU'LL BE HEARING FROM HER ABOUT THIS CASE...

I SEE.

GO AHEAD AND DO YOUR WORST, THEN.

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SSSS SHHH HHHH

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KAORU? IT'S ME, MOM.

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU. CAN YOU TALK NOW?

NO, NO SPECIAL REASON.

YOU KNOW, YESTERDAY, YOUR FATHER, HE...

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BROKE IT?

HOW BAD IS IT?



IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN ASK SISTER TO DRIVE YOU GUYS AROUND WHILE THE LEG HEALS...

I SEE. WELL, THAT'S GOOD, THEN...

*BY THE WAY, KAORU, HOW'S NOZOMI? IS SHE DOING FINE?*

...HUH? AH, MACHIDA...?

BUT YOU GUYS AREN'T YOUNG ANYMORE, YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL...

YES...

I'M A BIT BUSY, TOO, SO...

NO, NOTHING HAPPENED, IT'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS HERE ...

YEAH...

SHE'S OUT AT WORK RIGHT NOW...

SHE'S FINE, I SUPPOSE ...

OH.

SORRY, MOM.



IT'S BECAUSE I'M STILL AT WORK...

GOTTA GO NOW, OK?

KNOCK

KNOCK

OH.

ITALY WAS A LOT OF FUN.

A BIT TIRING, BUT THE SCENERY WAS JUST FANTASTIC.

IF I KNEW IT WAS YOU, I'D BRING YOU A SOUVENIR.

THAT'S GOOD...



AND YOU?

HOW DID YOU ENJOY YOUR GOLDEN WEEK?

CONVER-SATIONS ARE ALWAYS SUCH A DISAPPOINT-MENT.

BUT EVEN IN ANOTHER COUNTRY, SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE, YOU KNOW? SOME PEOPLE ARE COOL, SOME... AREN'T.

AND I WORKED SO HARD ON MY ITALIAN, YOU KNOW?

I GUESS IT'S ONE OF THOSE THINGS WE'RE BETTER OFF NOT UNDER-STANDING...

RIGHT.

IT'S OKAY, YOU KNOW. TO INDULGE A LITTLE.

...MM?

WELL...

YOU KNOW, JUST STAYED AROUND DOING NOTHING...

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I CAN'T STAND IT.

EVERYONE I KNOW ONLY WANTS TO CHASE AFTER THE LATEST TREND.

I'M SURE THEY HAVE THEIR OWN PERSONAL TASTES, BUT THEY BURY THEM.

IF ONLY THEY COULD JUST LIVE LIFE THEIR OWN WAY.

BUT YOU ...YOU HAVE THIS AIR OF FREEDOM...

RIGHT...

PEOPLE ALL START OUT FREE ...BUT THEY JUST CAN'T HELP TYING THEMSELVES DOWN.

NO, NOT AT ALL.

I'M JUST LIKE THEM; I'M NOT FREE AT ALL.

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WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

AND YOU, YOU.

THOUGH IN THE END, I GUESS IT'S THOSE RESTRIC-TIONS THAT MAKE MAKE ME, ME...

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OH, NOTHING, REALLY. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

WHEN MY MOUTH GETS BORED, IT JUST STARTS RUNNING...

YOU CAN CHOOSE WHATEVER MEANING YOU LIKE FOR THAT.

IT'S LIKE WATCHING A MOVIE WITHOUT SUBTITLES.

COMING UP WITH YOUR OWN MEANINGS MAKES IT ALL SOMETHING JUST RIGHT FOR YOU.



WHO... WHO EVEN ARE YOU?

...MM?

WHAT?

AH, NO, SORRY... IT'S NOTHING...

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I KNOW YOU'RE NOT AN ASTRONAUT. THAT'S ABOUT IT.

IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE MUCH ON YOU EITHER, YOU KNOW.

IS THAT SO?

WELL, THEN. TRY A LITTLE, OKAY?

WILL WE SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN?

YES... THOUGH IT'S FAIRLY HARD TO GET A RESERVATION WITH YOU.

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FOR A BRIEF, ANONYMOUS MOMENT, HE GETS TO NOT BE A MANGA ARTIST. AS HE LOSES SIGHT OF EVERY GOAL, HE GAZES AT HER FADING FIGURE... HIS ONLY RESPITE.